

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Ex File
Rev

14 October 1957

STAT

[redacted]
c/o Chief, London Bureau, FBIS
c/o American Embassy
#1 Grosvenor Square
London W. 1, England

Dear [redacted]:

SUBJECT: BBC Regional Survey

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As mentioned at the time of your departure here are a few comments concerning the BBC survey of Soviet regional stations, Sputnik and other disruptions notwithstanding. There is nothing earthshaking to say, mainly because the surveys did not turn up a great deal of new information and do not foreshadow regional coverage improvements as extensive as resulted from the Teheran prototype.

There are a few clear benefits to be derived from monitoring in Iran. Of the stations noted by BBC as being monitorable we would be particularly interested in seeing coverage of Astrakhan, Kuybyshev and Stalingrad; to a lesser extent also Nukus and Ordzhonikidze. These are standard long- or mediumwave transmissions. Among the shortwave broadcasts which they felt offered potential we now have some reports from Mediterranean Bureau on Petropavlovsk and Kokchetav; because of the early hour of the broadcasts I do not expect Cyprus will be able to do quite as well as Teheran despite its superior antenna facilities.

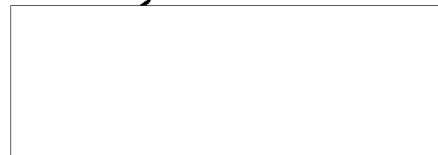
In general it appears that regional shortwave studio broadcasts of the area virtually all occur in the late afternoon (local time of transmission point) when there is usually still some daylight in the path. This may be one reason why shortwave is used, since the daylight has the effect of cutting down on the range of the broadcasts. For this reason I do not expect the westerly site of Teheran will be able to exploit to a high degree the quantity of these transmissions which may exist in the Central Asian Republics; the daylight distance will be prohibitive in many cases.

Obviously BBC will get some material which is not now being covered, and on the very minimum basis at which it will operate there is a good chance it may be profitable. I would say on the basis of our own available information there is another chance of boosting the level of productivity by monitoring at a more easterly site. Kabul would be a good locale, but West Pakistan is possibly a more practical area. For your information it is noted that small

British diplomatic posts are maintained at Lahore and Peshawar, either of which might be able to provide coverage of Akmolinsk, Bukhara, Chimkent and Dzhambul, among oblasts known to possess transmitters. After the results have been established for Teheran, they (or we) may wish to consider finishing the job on the same basis farther East.

There is little to add about Turkey except that we have confirmed their own finding that Central Asian USSR is less monitorable there than farther east. A significant improvement we note pertains to regional transmitters in the Soviet area north of Turkey across the Black Sea, an area which is fairly well covered at present but offers potential for better exploitation.

Sincerely,



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